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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #15-17

TO: All School Districts and Charter Schools

FROM: Steve Canavero, Ph.D. 
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: State Seal of Biliteracy Program (AB 166)

This guidance memorandum is issued pursuant to the authority provided in NRS 385.175(5), directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enforce the observance of Title 34 of Nevada's statutes and all other statutes and regulations governing public education.

Assembly Bill 166 of the 78th Regular Session created the State Seal of Biliteracy Program (Program), and the bill became effective on July 1, 2015. It requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a State Seal of Biliteracy (Seal) that may be affixed to a student's diploma and noted on the student's transcript to recognize students who graduate from a public high school having attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

The bill requires participating school districts and charter schools to award a Seal to a student who, among other things, passes the end-of-course exams in English language arts. I recognize that the end-of-course exams are not required to be administered to the Class of 2016 and, as to not delay the Program for this year's seniors, would like to clarify that a student may meet this requirement by passing the High School Proficiency Exams for Reading and Writing. This provision applies only to the Class of 2016 because the end of course graduation requirement begins with the Class of 2017.

The Nevada Department of Education would like to encourage boards of trustees of school districts and governing bodies of charter schools to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction of intentions to participate in this exciting Program so we know who to send the Seals to once they are ready for distribution.